

THE TIMES FOUNDED 1883
THE DISPATCH FOUNDED 1860

RICHMOND, VA., SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 1911.

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SOUTH HILL TOWN, IN MECKLENBURG

Town That Grew From
Nothing to Big Pro-
portions.

SCHOOLBOY TELLS INDUSTRIAL STORY

Third Largest Bright Tobacco
Market in Virginia—Many Men
in the Tobacco Business.
Mercantile Interests and
Banking Interests Natu-
rally Followed.

BY FRANK S. WOODSON.
South Hill, Mecklenburg County, Va., August 6.—Away back yonder in the early eighties there was no such place on the map of Virginia as South Hill. In the later years of the eighties the railroad that first was named the Atlantic and Danville, extending from Danville, a big, little tobacco town, to Norfolk, a little bigger town some-
where close to the Atlantic Ocean, was completed, and the folks who en-
gineered the road found that the very highest point on the line between Danville, at the foot of the mountains, and Norfolk, on the edge of the ocean, was right here in Mecklenburg county, just where a good country road crossed the proposed railway line. The railway builders thought this a good enough place to locate a station, as the fine ridge road that struck in right here led to a large farming con-
tingency, and they so located the sta-
tion and called the place South Hill.
Very soon active and vigorous busi-
ness men figured out that this loca-
tion was superior for a tobacco mar-
ket, for a manufacturing centre, for a banking town, and for a good mer-
chandising town; and banking on to their judgment, they came here to locate. The tobacco men readily es-
tablished a bright tobacco market that has become the third largest of its kind in Virginia, the merchants
rushed for trade from all the sur-
rounding regions in Virginia and North Carolina, and were not long in giving South Hill a reputation that made
Boynton and Clarksville, in Virginia, and Warrenton and Norlina and some other villages, in North Carolina, rather ashamed of themselves.

The railway was completed there was only a farm house and a water tank here. Now there are all the evidences of an up-to-date twenti-
eth century town. The census gives the town a population of something more than 1500 souls, but I am sure that when the folks who live just out-
side the town limits and who are all intents and purposes really citizens of the village, are counted as they should be, there would show up for South Hill a population of not less than 1500, maybe 1250. I have writ-
ten and talked about this good town of South Hill so much and so often that I have ally nothing new to offer.

A Bright Boy's Story.
That man Crafion, who runs the South Hill Enterprise, one of the best country weeklies in Virginia, recently offered a gold-dollar-kind of a premium to the boys who might write the best in-
dustrial story of South Hill. I have seen the copy of several of the effu-
sions of the boys. I am sure I could not tell the industrial history of South Hill any better than a little boy by the name of James A. Creedler has told it in the forthcoming Industrial edition of the Enterprise, and I am going to use his talk just as if it were mine and let the editor and high schooler of the Enterprise does not like it he can just fight it out with me.

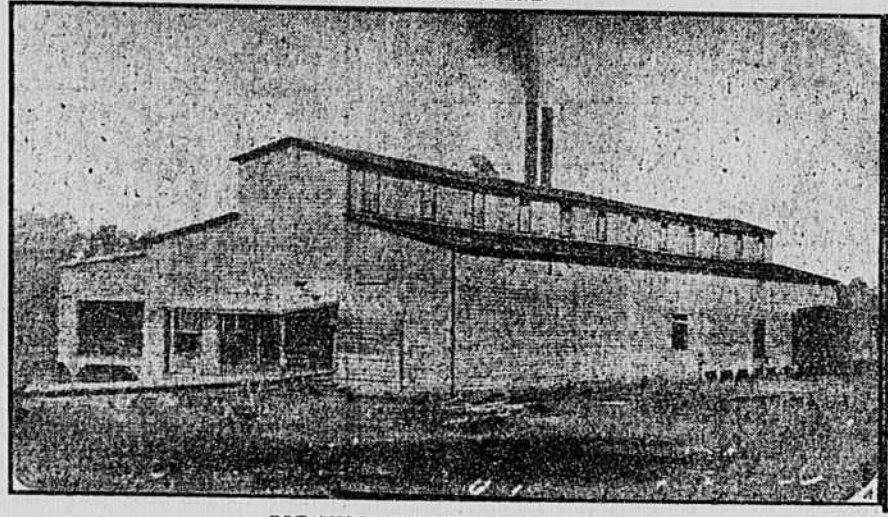
Here is the way this youngster talks about his town after very much un-
necessary introductory, and an en-
tirely unnecessary tribute to one Abraham Lincoln, one time President of a divided country.
Beginning at the Beginning.
The good little boys says:
"About this time I remember being in South Hill. There were only a few stores there then, doing a small business, and as I stood in the post-office, a small room probably built by the hand of some one, I was looking at the building and thinking of the future. Two warehouses, instead of one, were erected on the start, selling about 2,000,000 pounds of tobacco the first year, and being located in one of the finest bright tobacco sections of the State, the increase and develop-
ment of the tobacco market surprised on the most sanguine. Several great storage houses were erected the next season, together with other large warehouses, and a large stem-
mery and drying plant, which furnish to the buyers excellent facilities for handling and storing, and the farmers from all sides, attracted by the fair prices and level roads, began to swarm in with their products from other counties, and in a few years South Hill sold in one season over 5,000,000 pounds of tobacco, and became the third bright tobacco market in the State. With the successful opening of the tobacco market, the business men of progressive South Hill were quick to recognize the success that was surely coming, and they took counsel together to devise the most practical methods for the development of the town, and while the great increase and develop-
ment of the tobacco market, and the town stand as a pride to old Mecklenburg and as a guarantee to the investor. Simultaneous with the rise of the tobacco market, it became ob-
viously apparent that the town was in need of financial institutions.
Banking Required.
Some of the most successful men in the district took counsel together and organized the Bank of South Hill with a paid in capital of \$5,000. Men of wide
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SOUTH HILL RESIDENCE SCENE.



BANKING DISTRICT.



BOX SHOOK FACTORY.



SOUTH HILL BUSINESS VIEW.

HOW SANDY TALKS OF VIRGINIA FARMS

Virginia's Demonstrator Tells the
North Carolina Folks About
Much Good Work.

HOPE OF COUNTRY IN BOYS

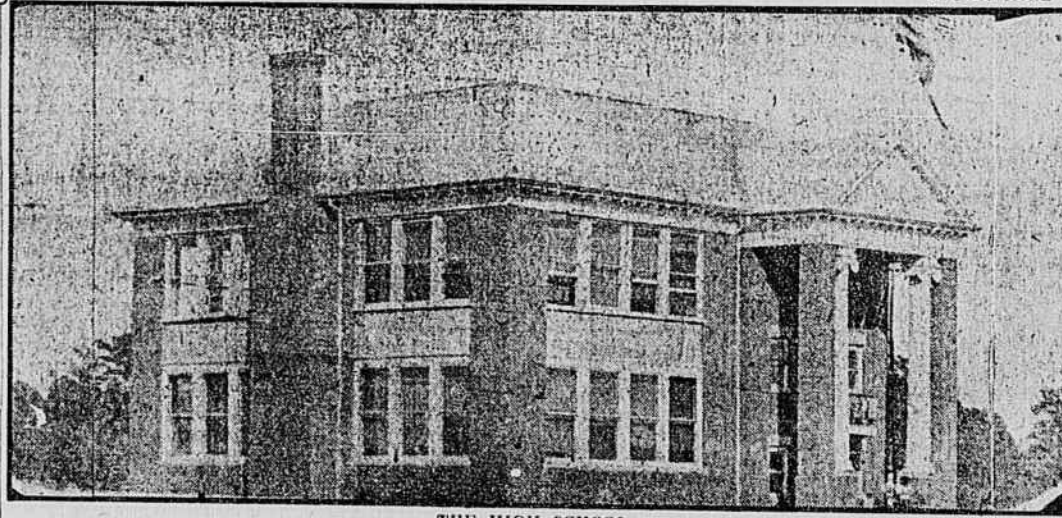
Hay-Making and Corn-Growing
Are Reduced to a Fine
Art.

T. O. Sandy, the chief of the farm demonstration work in Virginia, has been telling our North Carolina friends of the good work done in this State and how the Virginians have profited thereby. He has recently told them through the columns of the Progressive Farmer.

His story, taken from that esti-
mable journal, reads as follows:
One of the greatest problems be-
fore the Virginia people has been, "How to interest and keep the boys and girls on the farm, especially those who have been educated."
The loss of these rural leaders by flocking to the cities has been one of the greatest difficulties Virginia has had to contend with. These young men and women have left the farm because there was not enough to in-
terest them. The hardships they had to undergo by the use of farm tools which were antiquated and not time and labor-saving devices, in connection with other difficulties equally discouraging, made it barely possible for them to eke out a meagre exis-
tence, hence the depletion of the rural districts and the crowded condition of the cities. The demonstration work was brought to Virginia at this crisis of affairs, and through it the boys and girls are now being educated to make more from an acre of land by improved implements, proper fertiliza-
tion and cultivation than ever before. They are also taught to bring about changes in the monotony of the aver-
age rural home, to make life more pleasant and worth living.

Back to the Farm.
New hopes and new ideas are bring-
ing forth great possibilities, and the change in our rural life is simply won-
derful. Men who a few years ago migrated to the city, seeking relief from the drudgery of the farm are now buying back their old homes with a view to bringing the land to its once productive fertility.
The money that has been sent out of the State for all sorts of schemes is now being invested in the lands of the Commonwealth. Why this great change? Because these so-called wor-
rout lands have been made to produce corn and grass, equal to any in the States. The people in Virginia are co-operating as never before. The gov-
ernment, the State, the county, the cities and the railroads are working to one end, i. e., the upbuilding of the rural districts.

The Boys' Corn Club work for 1910 encourages to a great extent the de-
velopment of the State. For instance, twenty-six boys in the State made over 100 bushels of corn to the acre. The highest cost of production was 24 cents and the lowest 12-1-2 cents, making an average cost of about 18 cents per bushel.
Diplomas Gathered In.
Maurice Olgers, of Dinwiddie county, made 167 7-9 bushels to the acre at a cost of 24 cents per bushel.
Excessive yields, however, are not
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THE HIGH SCHOOL.

VIEWS AND NEAR VIEWS; HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS

As to the Drought and Its Results—Short Good
Roads in Brunswick—Longer Ones Coming.
Keysville's Fire and Its Lesson—New
Kind of Melons.

BY FRANK S. WOODSON,
Industrial Editor.
I have been loth to admit that the long continued drought in Virginia was as bad as the first reports made it out to be, but I have been out into several parts of the State during the last two weeks and have been adding my feeble supplications to the prayers of the farmers and their wives and their children for just a few showers. I have heard the pessimistic views of the farmers and the villagers and the town merchants who are dependent upon the trade of the farmers, who in turn are dependent upon the crops for trading and spending money. I must confess that the outlook for fall trade with the village and the town mer-
chants is rather gloomy. There is no denying the fact that the drought has been general all over Virginia and all crops are going to be cut rather short, especially the vegetable crops. All of the crops have suffered and are going to suffer more unless the rains come before these few leaves are put in type. The fact is that the farmers and the merchants of the small towns and the people generally must cut their beefsteaks much thinner this year than usual; expenses must be cut down in various ways, that is, if we want to make both ends meet. Virginia very seldom experiences a drought like that of this year. Such a thing hap-
pens only once within a quarter of a century. There is no occasion to be discouraged. We may have some hard pullings the coming fall and winter but there is a better time coming. Droughts come in this great country only now and then. In the last ten years we have been accumulating right much, as all the census reports show. O, we will tide over a drought year, and then don't forget that the season is not over yet. Late rains may bring late crops up in fine shape. Let's pin our faith on the late crops and keep right on praying.

Lawrenceville Sets a Pace.
I was up in Brunswick county the other day, and I asked some of the wide-awake people up there why it was that Brunswick had not made some big county and district votes for bond issues for good roads in the county. A man who seemed to know what he was talking about said: "Well, we have not been making any bond issues just yet. We are getting our folks in the humor for a bond issue, however. We have been doing a little
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through the town on either of the rail-
roads that centre there is strange with the ash piles and the lonely chimneys that are left. Of course, the people of Keysville are down in the dumps, and are wondering how they are going to revive. Well, they will revive. Some-
times a fire in a town like Keysville proves to be a good thing. Maybe the shops and warehouses and things that were burned were well insured—they ought to have been if they were not—most likely they were. Insurance com-
panies and the risks they sometimes take have been known to make a good town of a place that otherwise was lacking in hustle. It may be that the Keysville fire will prove a blessing. I have known towns to be blessed in that way, and the insurance companies that rich enough—they can stand it. What would a few human cremations without the big fire it had two or more decades ago? Danville would possibly not be the great city it is to-day but for some big fires and somewhat suspi-
cious fires it had many years ago. And Chicago? Why look at Chicago. It never would have been the great city it is but for the fact that it was the seat of the biggest fire that ever came to the American continent. Instead of being in the dumps, Keysville should rejoice that it has had a fire. Possibly it would have been even better had there been a few human cremations while the blaze was in good shape. But that is just a guess at random, and another guess which is more reason-
able and more to the point is that the wide-awake folks in Keysville, and there are a few of that kind there, are not going to weep long over the fire, but will go to work and build more largely on the ash heaps and ash piles. So mote it be.

Keysville and Its Fire.
The town of Keysville, lying rather lazily at a point where Charlotte and Mecklenburg and Lunenburg, and some other counties come mightily near joining hands, has recently had a big fire, that is, big for such a small town. Several shops and industrial ventures went into ashes, and a traveler going
(Continued on Third Page.)

CHICKEN TALK FROM SHOULDER

An Expert Tells About the Ad-
vantages of Poultry Shows and
How to Make Them.

BY WALTER C. SCHAAF.
With the Virginia State Fair only eight weeks hence, it behooves us, that is to say poultry folks, to look around our yards and pick out the most likely specimens that may have a chance at the ribbons. The poultry exhibitions at our State Fair have im-
proved from year to year in both numbers and quality of birds shown, so that now to win a ribbon, even though it be a fifth prize, is a covet-
ed honor, aspired for by every exhibi-
tor. Particularly is this true in the larger classes where competition is so keen, for instance, the White Leghorns, Barred Rocks, Wyandottes and Orpingtons.

For the amateur or beginner the State Fair is without doubt the place for him to do his first exhibiting. He does not have to ship his birds by ex-
press, but can deliver them person-
ally. This fact enables him to put the bird in the coop in first-class shape and condition, which is seldom the case if the bird has to make a several hun-
dred mile express journey. Then again, he can visit the fair at his leisure, and study the points of the winners in his class, thereby learning more in a few days than he can learn in a year at home, always looking at his own fowls.

Now, a few words to those that this year will show for the first time. If you haven't enough sporting blood in your veins to suffer defeat gracefully, better not show at all. There is noth-
ing that will so quickly lower your standing in the eyes of your brother fanciers, as your belittling the awards of the judges, by such remarks as "he doesn't know his business," etc. Remember that the judge gets paid and paid well for his work, and his reputation being at stake, if he did not know his business, he would soon be out of a job just like any of us mortals.

Another great mistake made more often by the older hands is because a bird won first at such and such a show, it ought to have stood better here. There is one time in a chicken's life that it looks better than it ever will again. This time with a pullet is usually just before she lays her first egg. If you have a pullet just al-
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VALUE OF FARMS IN OLD VIRGINIA

How and Why Values Have
Largely Increased Within
a Decade.

FIGURES FOR PRESERVATION

The Old State Is Nearly a Hun-
dred Per Cent. Richer in
in Ten Years.

The long promised statistics from the Census Bureau concerning Virginia farm and land values are at last at hand, and yet it is admitted that they are not yet complete, but they are near enough to the end to enable the accomplished statisticians in the Census Department to figure out the per-
centage of increase and decrease for the decade extending from 1900 to 1910.
The facts and figures I give below are taken from the report of Acting Census Director Falkner, who has issued the first official statement from the Census Bureau relative to the agri-
cultural statistics of the State of Virginia, collected at the thirteenth decennial United States census, April 15, 1911.

It is based on a preliminary com-
parative summary submitted by Dr. J. D. Powers, chief statistician of the Division of agriculture in the Bureau of the Census. This summary shows, for both the census of 1910 and that of 1900, the reported total value of farm land, buildings and implements and machin-
ery; total acreage; improved acreage; average acres per farm; average value per acre of farm land and buildings; average value per acre of farm land alone, and the aggregate expenditure for labor and fertilizers. It also dis-
tributes to total number of farms ac-
cording to color of farmer; specified character of tenure, whether held free or mortgaged by owners, and by cer-
tain acreage groups.
Attention is called to the fact that the figures are subject to revision later as a number of farms whose returns are incomplete will be included in the final tables. These additions will not, in all probability, modify any of the amounts or rates contained in the present statement.

The census of agriculture was taken primarily for the purpose of obtaining an accurate inventory of all classes of farm property existing on April 15, 1910, a complete exhibit of farm opera-
tions during the year ended December 31, 1909; and a statement of the num-
ber and value of domestic animals in cities and villages on April 15, 1910.

Statements relative to acreage and yield of crops and the domestic ani-
mals of Virginia will be issued by the Census Bureau as soon as the tabula-
tion of these data has been completed.
The Rates of Increase and Decrease.
It is pointed out in the statement that the principal rates of increase in Virginia in 1910, as against 1900, among the items for which percentages are given in the first section of the sum-
mary are: In the total value of all farm land alone, 95 per cent.; in the total value of farm land and build-
ings, 96 per cent.; in the total value of farm buildings, 93 per cent.; in the average value per acre of farm land alone, 107 per cent.; in the average value per acre of farm land and buildings, 109 per cent.; in the total expenditures for labor, 71 per cent.; in the total expenditures for fertilizers, 88 per cent.; in the total value of all farm implements and ma-
(Continued on Second Page.)

REAL ESTATE AND BUILDING NEWS

Summer Dullness No
Longer Visible; Many
Large Deals.

SUBURBAN AND FARM SALES LARGE

Court Clerks Kept Busy All the
Week Recording Many Large
Deeds—Building Operations
Know No Such Word as
Cessation—Notes and
Views Generally.

Several large deals in real estate marked the closing days of the past week, and by the delivery of papers and recordation of deeds they greatly added to the aggregate of the trans-
fers during the week, and also, incidentally, added \$1,000 or so to the coffers of the State by the obnox-
ious ad valorem tax, and all of this came from the already tax-burdened real estate owner.

Some of these deals have possibly been mentioned in these columns be-
fore without particularizing. The re-
cordation of the papers discloses some facts not heretofore known.

For instance, Henry S. Wallerstein conveyed to St. George and John Stewart Bryan three brick stores on Main Street, near Seventh Street, for the consideration of \$15,000.

The Westhampton Company conveyed to William C. Schmidt and associates several hundred acres of Westham property, near the Country Club of Virginia, for the consideration of \$80,000.

The Leawake real estate firm of Harrison & Bates engineered this, the biggest deal of the week. They also pulled off a sale of property on Grove Avenue, by which Major Hunsdon Cary became a buyer to the extent of \$7,500. They also sold some Floyd Avenue property that netted the seller \$10,000.

Some Big Deeds Recorded.

During the closing office hours of the recording clerk of the court, J. Thompson Brown & Company and Green & Reid shot in a deed, convey-
ing forty acres of land on the Hermitage Road, near the Hill Mo-
nument, from Lewis H. Blair to the Real Estate Loan Deposit Company. While the consideration in this deed is mere-
ly nominal, the ad valorem tax on the same designates the transaction as between \$20,000 and \$40,000.

The same folks also recorded a deed from T. W. Chelf to Lewis H. Blair, conveying two apartment houses, 305 and 308 West Main Street, the consid-
eration being \$23,500. From these deals it appears that the transactions were in the nature of a swap, involv-
ing both city and country property. Brown & Company desire to state to what purpose the purchasers propose to put the forty acres, but it is pre-
sumed from the excellent location and superior attitudeness of the land, that it will be subdivided into a new suburban addition.

Signs That Tell.

This section, by the way, has been very greatly improved in the past few months by the erection of several very handsome residences and other go-
ing up. Gus Hanna has finished his colonial brick dwelling and moved into the same. Miss Ford has also com-
pleted her beautiful villa and is oc-
cupying it. St. George Bryan's com-
pulsive handsome residence on that part of Labrum fronting the Hermitage Road is also nearing completion. And I am told that other buildings of character are in contemplation in this immediate section in the very near future.

There were quite a number of other transfers during the week. On Fri-
day alone, forty different deeds of bar-
gain and sale were recorded in the city and county courts, aggregating nearly \$200,000, and the week alto-
gether was one of unusual activity considering the season, which is usually considered a dull one, and such of the real estate men take advantage of for their summer vacation.

Money Being Called For.

Another very encouraging sign of the times is the large number of real estate loans now being made. On this line, Leroy Brown, of the firm of J. Thompson Brown & Co., remarked that he had never seen as many applica-
tions for loans at this season of the year in his experience of twenty-five years. He added: "I have had a per-
centage of loans of all sorts, kinds and characters, ranging from \$500 to \$20,000, on city, suburban and coun-
try property. Thus far I have been able to accommodate all city and sub-
urban applicants, and as soon as their demands are satisfied I hope to be able to accommodate our country customers."

This activity in loans, and it is gen-
eral, has only one interpretation, and that is there is increasing demand for money incident to increased activity in business, especially the building line. As of this money, however, is by no means good results from their in-
spections. Several new busi-
nesses coming here were also in-
specting sites during the week adapt-
ed for their purposes, some of whom have already been mentioned in our industrial columns and others of whom we know not, and the agents having them in charge were as oysters when asked for particulars.